

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 88

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Elvie Zell **PRESENT POSITION** Artist

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 9/3/52 Cleveland, Ohio

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Enamel

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

1976, B.A., Cleveland State University. Minor Concentration in Studio Art

1976, Workshop in Enamel, Cleveland State University.

1976, Workshop in Grisaille Enamel with Bill Helwig, Miami University.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

- "The Best of 1988," Ohio Designer Craftsmen, Travelling Show, March-August, 1988.
- "The Ohio Craft Invitational Show 17," The Mansfield Art Center, Setember, 1987.
- "Ohio Enamels," A Show of Hands, Cincinnatti, Ohio, August, 1987.
- 1987 May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS:

First Prize for Best Craft, "Proscenium '86," Beck Center for the Cultural Arts, Lakewood, Ohio.

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

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MAY 87

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FULL NAME: Elvie Zell

PRESENT POSITION

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: September 3, 1952, Cleveland, Ohio

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Enamel

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

Bachelor of Arts Degree, 1976, Cleveland State University, Concentration
in Studio Art (Tuition fully paid by scholarships and grants)

Workshop in Grisaille Enamel, 1976, Miami University

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

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See resume

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS:

See resume

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

See Artist's Statement

Elvie Zell
12801 Buckeye Road
Cleveland, OH 44120
216-561-3966

EDUCATION

Cleveland State University, Bachelor of Arts Degree with Concentration in Studio Art, 1976

Workshops: Copper Enamel, Cleveland State University, 1976
Grisaille Enamel, Miami University, 1976

JURIED SHOWS & EXHIBITS

1987 May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.

Proscenium '86, Beck Center for the Cultural Arts, Cleveland, Ohio, 1986.
Cash Award for Best Craft.

24th, 25th, & 31st Annual Art Show, Jewish Community Center, Cleveland, Ohio, 1979, 1980 & 1986. Honorable Mention in 1980.

Agnon Fine Art & Craft Exhibition, The Agnon School, Cleveland, Ohio, 1986.

"Surfaced Materials," Tom Balbo Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio, 1986. (Two person show.)

"Recent Work," The Murray Hill Market, Cleveland, Ohio, 1986. (Three person show.)

"Hearts & Flowers, Cats & Beasts," The Murray Hill Market, Cleveland, Ohio, 1986.
(Three person show.)

"Winter Group Show," Spring Street Enamels Gallery, New York, New York, 1980.

Ohio Artists & Craftsmen Show, The Massillon Museum, Massillon, Ohio, 1978.

SELECTED FAIRS

Craftfair at Hathaway Brown (Ohio Designer Craftsmen), Cleveland, Ohio, 1987.

Cain Park Arts Festival, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 1986 and 1978.

Coconut Grove Art Fair, Miami, Florida, 1980.

Baltimore Winter Market (ACE), Baltimore, Maryland, 1979.

Winterfair, Columbus, Ohio, 1977 through 1979.

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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I see myself as a graphic artist who happens to be working in the medium of enamel. I discovered enameling quite unintentionally about ten years ago, and was immediately intrigued. I enjoyed the transformation that occurs during firing and the element of chance involved in the process. From the beginning I was drawn to the technique of grisaille because it allowed for the fullest expression of my orientation as a graphic artist within the medium.

From 1976 to 1980 I was a full time production enamelist, turning out stockpiles of jewelry and learning a lot about the technique of enameling. When I found myself suffering from boredom and burnout, I put away my kiln and returned to drawing. About two years ago I began to learn the craft of papermaking.

In the last year I have returned my focus entirely to enameling with great enthusiasm and a fresh perspective. I am very excited about the possibilities for combining enamel and cast paper. I like the interplay between the smooth, hard surface of the glass and the coarse, soft texture of paper. There is a refreshing contrast and balance intrinsic to the processes - papermaking for me is far more spontaneous and less painstaking than enameling. Combining the two mediums also enables me to increase the scale of my work.